

Recommendations

Education Reform Focus Groups

Education Finance. The key issue considered by the Education Finance focus group was – *"How can resources be linked to performance goals and student outcomes?"* The following three ideas were proposed:

- Identify three successful schools in Hawaii as models of standards implementation and cost out their staffing and programs as the basis for adequate funding.
- Consider other states' education finance models that link financial management systems with student outcomes.
- Conduct a comparative study of Hawaii laws, BOE policies and funding levels to assess alignment of resources with requirements of Hawaii state standards and NCLB.

Roles and Responsibilities. The two key issues considered by the Roles & Responsibilities focus group were – *"What **authorities** should education stakeholders – BOE, Superintendent, school staff, parents, and students – have in order to ensure that all students achieve standards; and What **resources** should education stakeholders have in order to ensure all students achieve standards."* The following unifying ideas were proposed:

- Empower middle and high school students, and their parents, to take responsibility and be held accountable for their education.
- Reward competent school staff, especially in hard-to-fill positions and provide assistance to marginal employees, dismissing those who are unwilling or unable to improve.
- Redefine roles of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.
- Reduce student disruptions and disorderly conduct.
- Create incentives for school-level and departmental personnel to perform well, providing resources to high performing schools, as well as targeted assistance to low-performing schools.
- Support professional development for school-level staff to enhance their performance and to ensure only qualified teachers are in classrooms.
- Improve access to computer technology and information as basic tools of learning and school management.
- Encourage parental involvement in student's education.

Community Collaboration. The key issue considered by the Community Collaboration focus group was – *"How can the community at-large, and particularly the business community, partner with the public school system to support public education?"* The following three ideas were proposed:

- Build upon existing partnerships and create a statewide coordinating body to prevent duplication and share effective models.
- Recruit successful business partners to provide leadership training for school administrators to provide them with essential management and leadership tools.
- Ensure that private sector contributions don't result in reductions or supplanting public funding levels.

Quality Schools & Teachers. The key issue considered by the Quality Schools and Teachers focus group was – *"What best practices in the delivery of educational services can be adopted to support quality schools and teachers?"* The following three ideas were proposed:

- School complexes – elementary schools feeding into middle schools feeding into one high school – are a promising model to support sequential curriculum, aligning teacher professional development programs with complex-based curriculum, and adopting common reforms related to school size and school calendars.
- Complex-based learning communities allow for the adoption of an accountability system that can assess the effectiveness of not only single schools, but also how the curriculum is integrated and sequenced throughout the complex.
- Establish a statewide council to interpret data collected on students and schools to assist in decision-making on educational policy and programs.